

03050201-040

(East Branch Cooper River)

General Description

Watershed 03050201-040 is located in Berkeley and Charleston Counties and consists primarily of the ***East Branch Cooper River*** and its tributaries. The watershed occupies 123,228 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Yauhannah-Yemassee-Chipley-Hobcaw series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.15; the slope of the terrain averages 1 %, with a range of 0-2 %. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 74.3 % forested land, 19.7 % forested wetland, 3.3 % scrub/shrub land, 2.2 % water, and 0.5 % agricultural land.

The East Branch Cooper River is formed by the confluence of Huger Creek and Quinby Creek. Prior to the confluence, Huger Creek accepts drainage from Nicholson Creek (Kutz Creek, Darlington Creek, Darlington Swamp, Cooks Creek, Jericho Branch, Fourth of July Branch), Turkey Creek (Huitt Branch, Old Man Lead, Oakie Branch, Muddy Creek, Fox Gully Branch), Negro Field Branch, and Gough Creek (Alligator Creek, Midway Reserve, Little Hellhole Reserve, Little Hellhole Bay, Quarterman Branch, Upper Reserve, Lower Reserve). Quinby Creek accepts drainage from Harleston Dam Creek (Cropnel Dan Creek), Northampton Creek, Bennett Branch, Deep Branch, Pinckney Reserve Branch, Menzer Run, and York Bottom Creek. Bennett Branch flows through a 50-acre recreational pond, and the Hester Canal bypasses Quinby Creek near its mouth. The entire area prior to the confluence of Huger and Quinby Creeks is within the Francis Marion National Forest.

Downstream of the confluence, the East Branch Cooper River receives drainage from Mayrant Lead, French Quarter Creek (Chipper Swamp, Freshing Lead), and Big Dam Lead (Comingtee Creek). There are several recreational ponds and lakes in the watershed (10-150 acres), and a total of 409.4 stream miles, all classified FW.

Water Quality

No monitoring occurred in this watershed.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the East Branch Cooper River within this watershed (see advisory p.62).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM

FACILITY NAME

PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)

COMMENT

NPDES#

TYPE

LIMITATION (EL/WQL)

EAST BRANCH COOPER RIVER

SC0033073

CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY GS COUNCIL
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.012

MINOR DOMESTIC
EFFLUENT

FRENCH QUARTER CREEK
FRENCH QUARTER GROUP LP MINE
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: M/R

SCG730086
MINOR INDUSTRIAL
EFFLUENT

FRENCH QUARTER CREEK
CAINHOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.020
WQL FOR DO

SC0037621
MINOR DOMESTIC
WATER QUALITY

Nonpoint Source Management Program

Camping Facilities

FACILITY NAME/TYPE
RECEIVING STREAM

PERMIT #
STATUS

GIRL SCOUT PLANTATION/RESIDENT
EAST BRANCH COOPER RIVER

08-305-0006
ACTIVE

Mining Activities

MINING COMPANY
MINE NAME

PERMIT #
MINERAL

FRENCH QUARTER GROUP LP
FRENCH QUARTER MINE

0873-15
SAND/CLAY

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth expected in this watershed. There are numerous historic structures located in the area, and great public sentiment to preserve the historic character of the area.